

# Climate Policies, Macroprudential Regulation, and the Welfare Cost of Business Cycles

Barbara Annicchiarico\*, Marco Carli\*\*, **Francesca Diluiso\*\*\***

---

*Virtual Seminar on Climate Economics*

*Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco*

April 4, 2024

\*Roma Tre University, \*\*Tor Vergata University, \*\*\*Bank of England

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Bank of England or its committees

## Background and Motivation

- Wide consensus on the need for large reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

## Background and Motivation

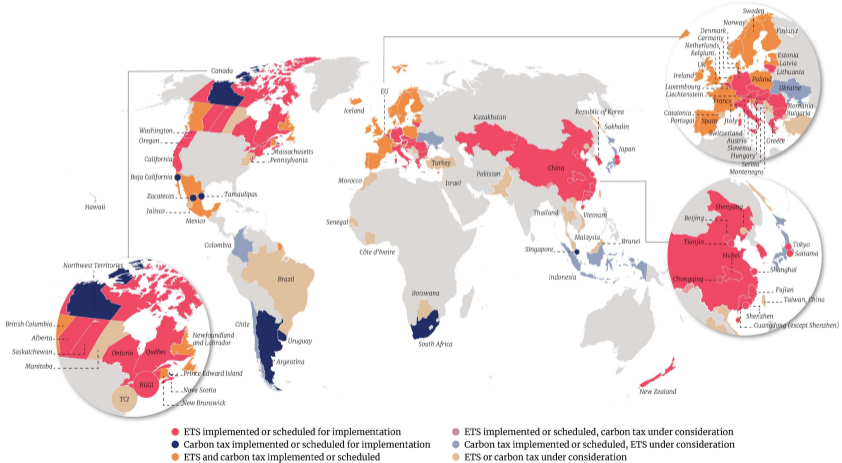
- Wide consensus on the need for large reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- **Carbon pricing** considered a cost-effective policy tool that governments should use as part of their broader climate strategy

## Background and Motivation

- Wide consensus on the need for large reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- **Carbon pricing** considered a cost-effective policy tool that governments should use as part of their broader climate strategy
- Policy and academic debate around pros and cons of carbon taxes vs. cap-and-trade schemes **Instruments**

# Background and Motivation

## Carbon Pricing Worldwide (World Bank 2023)



# Background and Motivation

## The Price vs. Quantity Debate

- '*Price vs. quantity*' debate since Weitzman (1974) around pros and cons of **carbon taxes** and **cap-and-trade schemes**: in the presence of *uncertainty* these two policies are not equivalent!
- The two instruments can differ in terms of economic and environmental performance:
  - more if in an open economy
  - more if in general equilibrium
  - more if other market failures are present

# Background and Motivation

## The Price vs. Quantity Debate: a Business Cycle Perspective

- $CO_2$  emissions are highly pro-cyclical cycle
- Costs and benefits of carbon pricing policies vary over the course of business cycles (e.g. Heutel, 2012)
- These policies perform differently but welfare costs are quantitatively very similar in RBC or NK models (e.g. Fischer and Springborn, 2011 and Annicchiarico and Di Dio, 2015)

# Background and Motivation

## Research Gap

- Previous models (both RBC and NK) abstract from financial markets:
  - interaction between financial markets and different carbon pricing policies not yet explored



# Background and Motivation

## Research Gap

- Previous models (both RBC and NK) abstract from financial markets:
  - interaction between financial markets and different carbon pricing policies not yet explored
- Changes in financial and credit conditions:
  - are important in the propagation of the business cycle
  - can affect the transmission of policy interventions

## Our Research Questions

RQ1: Can climate policy interact with credit market imperfections and the way shocks are transmitted?

## Our Research Questions

- RQ1: Can climate policy interact with credit market imperfections and the way shocks are transmitted?
- RQ2: With financial frictions, are welfare costs of the business cycle significantly different between carbon taxes and cap-and-trade schemes?

## Our Research Questions

- RQ1: Can climate policy interact with credit market imperfections and the way shocks are transmitted?
- RQ2: With financial frictions, are welfare costs of the business cycle significantly different between carbon taxes and cap-and-trade schemes?
- RQ3: Can macroprudential policy align the performance of different carbon pricing policies over the business cycle?

## Our Research Questions: Answers

- RQ1: Can climate policy interact with credit market imperfections and the way shocks are transmitted? **Yes!**
- RQ2: With financial frictions, are welfare costs of the business cycle significantly different between carbon taxes and cap-and-trade schemes? **Yes!**
- RQ3: Can macroprudential policy align the performance of different carbon pricing policies over the business cycle? **Yes!**

## What We Do

- Dynamic stochastic general equilibrium model (RBC) with:
  - Environmental variables (negative externality as in Golosov et al., 2014 and abatement as in the DICE model)
  - Financial frictions (costly state verification as in Bernanke et al., 1999 and Christiano et al., 2014)

## What We Do

- Dynamic stochastic general equilibrium model (RBC) with:
  - Environmental variables (negative externality as in Golosov et al., 2014 and abatement as in the DICE model)
  - Financial frictions (costly state verification as in Bernanke et al., 1999 and Christiano et al., 2014)
- Two sources of uncertainty: aggregate TFP shocks and risk shocks

# What We Do

- Dynamic stochastic general equilibrium model (RBC) with:
  - Environmental variables (negative externality as in Golosov et al., 2014 and abatement as in the DICE model)
  - Financial frictions (costly state verification as in Bernanke et al., 1999 and Christiano et al., 2014)
- Two sources of uncertainty: aggregate TFP shocks and risk shocks
- Role of (optimal) price and quantity regulations for:
  - Economic dynamics
  - Welfare costs of the business cycle



# What We Do

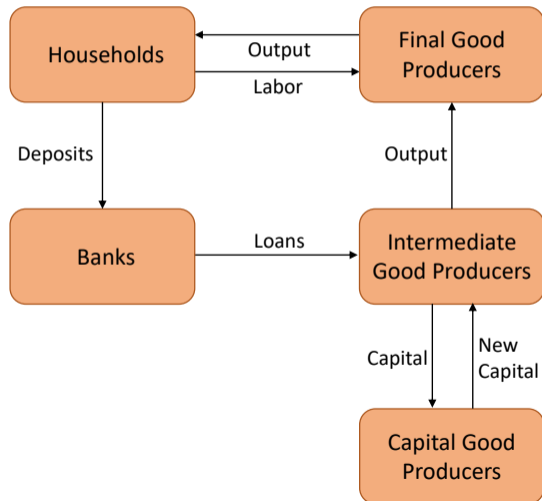
- Dynamic stochastic general equilibrium model (RBC) with:
  - Environmental variables (negative externality as in Golosov et al., 2014 and abatement as in the DICE model)
  - Financial frictions (costly state verification as in Bernanke et al., 1999 and Christiano et al., 2014)
- Two sources of uncertainty: aggregate TFP shocks and risk shocks
- Role of (optimal) price and quantity regulations for:
  - Economic dynamics
  - Welfare costs of the business cycle
- Role of (optimal) macroprudential regulation

## The Model

---

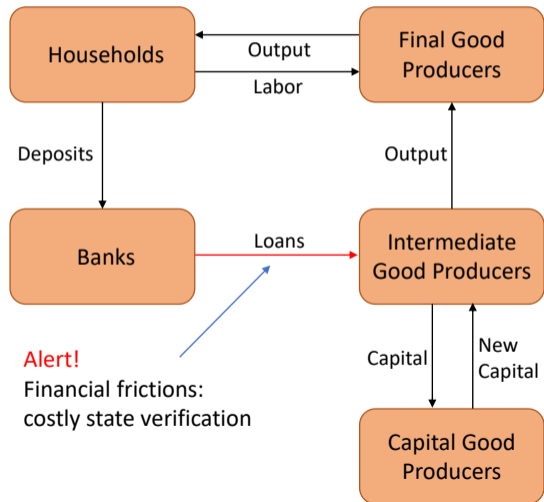
# The Model Economy

## Skeleton



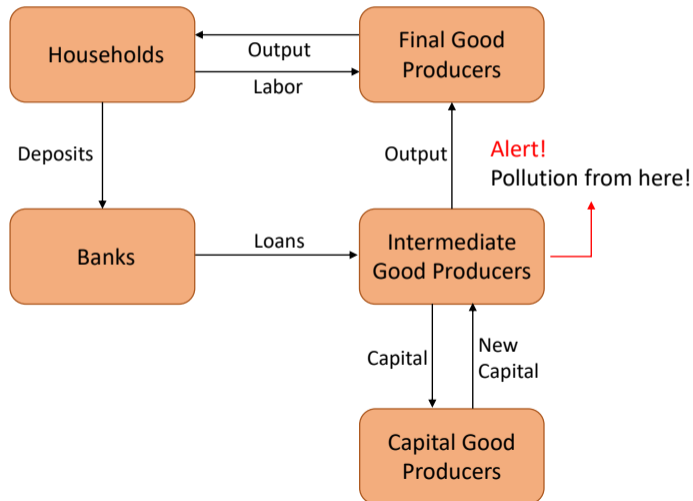
# The Model Economy

## Skeleton



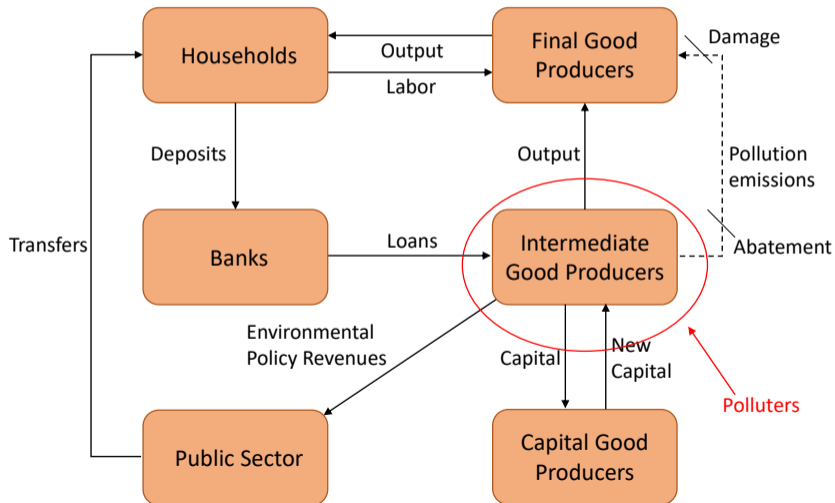
# The Model Economy

## Skeleton



# The Model Economy

## Skeleton



# The Model Economy

## Households

- Households maximize expected utility:

$$U_0 = \mathbb{E}_0 \left\{ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \frac{[C_t^{\sigma_L} (1 - H_t)^{1 - \sigma_L}]^{1 - \eta}}{1 - \eta} \right\}$$

subject to the budget constraint:

$$C_t + B_{t+1}^H \leq W_t H_t + (1 + R_{t-1}) B_t^H + T_t$$

$C_t$  consumption,  $H_t$  labor paying wage  $W_t$ ,  $B_t^H$  risk-free deposits,  
 $R_t$  risk-free rate,  $T_t$  lump-sum payments

# The Model Economy

## Final-Good Producers

- The final good is produced according to the following Cobb-Douglas technology in intermediate good  $X$  and labor  $H$ :

$$Y_t = A_t X_t^\alpha H_t^{1-\alpha}$$

- $A_t$  is a measure of total factor productivity (TFP) negatively affected by pollution stock



# The Model Economy

## Pollution and Damage

- Polluting gases accumulate into stock  $M_t$ :

$$M_t - \underbrace{\bar{M}}_{\text{pre-industrial stock}} = \sum_{s=0}^{t-T} (1 - \underbrace{\delta_M}_{\text{decay rate}})^s (E_{t-s} + \underbrace{E_{t-s}^*}_{\text{RoW emissions}})$$

- As in Golosov (2014), the damage function:

$$1 - D_t(M_t) = \exp(-\xi (M_t - \bar{M}))$$

- Pollution negatively affects TFP,  $A_t$ , at the final-good level:

$$A_t = \bar{A}_t (1 - D_t(M_t))$$

- Source of uncertainty (i):  $\bar{A}_t$  is subject to shocks

# The Model Economy

## Intermediate-Good Producers: The Polluters

- A mass of intermediate-good firms, whose state is summarized by net worth,  $N \geq 0$ , inherited from period  $t$  production
- At the end of period  $t$ , each  $N$ -type firm obtains a loan  $B_{t+1}^N$  from a bank, which is then combined with net worth to purchase capital:

$$\underbrace{Q_{K,t} K_{t+1}^N}_{\text{capital value}} = \underbrace{N}_{\text{net worth}} + \underbrace{B_{t+1}^N}_{\text{loan from bank}}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{leverage } L_t^N = \frac{Q_{K,t} K_{t+1}^N}{N}$$

# The Model Economy

## Intermediate-Good Producers: The Polluters

- Firms undertake the period  $t + 1$  production process according to technology:

$$X_{t+1}^N = \omega K_{t+1}^N$$

$\omega$  a unit-mean lognormally distributed idiosyncratic shock on productivity with  $\sigma_t$  the standard deviation of  $\log \omega$

- If  $\omega$  less than a cut-off,  $\bar{\omega}^N$ , the producer goes into bankruptcy!
- Source of uncertainty (ii):  $\sigma_t$  can vary over time!

$$\log \sigma_t = (1 - \rho_\sigma) \log \sigma + \rho_\sigma \log \sigma_{t-1} + \varepsilon_{\sigma,t}$$

# The Model Economy

## Intermediate-Good Producers: The Polluters

- The production process is polluting, but producers can abate emissions:

$$\underbrace{E_{t+1}^N}_{\text{emissions}} = \chi \left( 1 - \underbrace{\kappa_{t+1}^N}_{\text{abatement}} \right) X_{t+1}^N$$

- Abatement cost function per unit of output:

$$\theta_1 \left( \kappa_{t+1}^N \right)^{\theta_2}, \theta_2 > 1$$

- Polluters are subject to environmental policy and pay  $P_{t+1}^E$  for each unit of emissions

To control pollution, the public sector has two alternative environmental policy tools:

- a **carbon tax**: a fixed tax rate  $\bar{P}^E$  per unit of emission
- a **cap-and-trade**: a cap  $\bar{E}$  on overall emissions of the economy

Revenues from pollution policies are redistributed to households as lump-sum transfers

# The Model Economy

## Intermediate-Good Producers: The Polluters

- At the end of period  $t + 1$  the return on production is

$$1 + R_{t+1}^k = \frac{\overbrace{r_{t+1}^x}^{\text{depends on TFP}} + (1 - \delta)Q_{K,t+1}}{Q_{K,t}} - \frac{\overbrace{[\theta_1 (\kappa_{t+1})^{\theta_2} + P_{t+1}^E \chi (1 - \kappa_{t+1})]}^{\text{environmental-compliance costs}}}{Q_{K,t}}$$

- $r_{t+1}^x$ : price paid by final good-producers
- $Q_{K,t}$ : price paid for capital
- $(1 - \delta)Q_{K,t+1}$ : what is received from capital-good producers for the sale of capital

# The Model Economy

## Intermediate-Good Producers: The Polluters

- At the end of period  $t + 1$  the return on production is

$$1 + R_{t+1}^k = \frac{\overbrace{r_{t+1}^x}^{\text{depends on TFP}} + (1 - \delta)Q_{K,t+1}}{Q_{K,t}} - \frac{\overbrace{\left[ \theta_1 (\kappa_{t+1})^{\theta_2} + P_{t+1}^E \chi (1 - \kappa_{t+1}) \right]}^{\text{environmental-compliance costs}}}{Q_{K,t}}$$

- $r_{t+1}^x$ : price paid by final good-producers
- $Q_{K,t}$ : price paid for capital
- $(1 - \delta)Q_{K,t+1}$ : what received from capital-good producers for the sale of capital

# The Model Economy

## Intermediate-Good Producers: The Polluters

- At the end of period  $t + 1$  the return on production is

$$1 + R_{t+1}^k = \frac{\overbrace{r_{t+1}^x}^{\text{depends on TFP}} + (1 - \delta)Q_{K,t+1}}{Q_{K,t}} + \frac{\overbrace{\theta_1 (\kappa_{t+1})^{\theta_2} + P_{t+1}^E \chi (1 - \kappa_{t+1})}^{\text{environmental-compliance costs}}}{Q_{K,t}}$$

Relative Compliance Costs

- $r_{t+1}^x$ : price paid by final good-producers
- $Q_{K,t}$ : price paid for capital
- $(1 - \delta)Q_{K,t+1}$ : what received from capital-good producers for the sale of capital



# The Model Economy

## Banks

- Perfectly competitive banks
  - issue deposits to households and pay a risk free rate  $R$
  - make loans  $B^N$  to polluters at gross rate  $Z$
  - collect value of assets from bankrupt polluters, but pay monitoring cost

# The Model Economy

## Banks

- Perfectly competitive banks
  - issue deposits to households and pay a risk free rate  $R$
  - make loans  $B^N$  to polluters at gross rate  $Z$
  - collect value of assets from bankrupt polluters, but pay monitoring cost

$$\underbrace{(1 - F_t(\bar{\omega}_{t+1}^N))B_{t+1}^N Z_{t+1}^N}_{\text{payments from loans}} + \underbrace{(1 - \mu) \int_0^{\bar{\omega}_{t+1}^N} \omega dF_t(\omega)(1 + R_{t+1}^k) Q_{K,t} K_{t+1}^N}_{\text{assets from bankrupt polluters - monitoring cost}}$$
$$= \underbrace{B_{t+1}^N (1 + R_t)}_{\text{payments to depositors}}$$

- The zero-profit condition can be re-written as

$$[\Gamma_t(\bar{\omega}_{t+1}^N) - \mu G_t(\bar{\omega}_{t+1}^N)] \frac{Q_{K,t} K_{t+1}^N}{B_{t+1}^N} (1 + R_{t+1}^k) = 1 + R_t$$

- **Market failure:** the risk-free interest rate  $R_t$  is equal to the average and not to the marginal return on production
- The economy is characterized by under-lending

# Calibration

---

# The Model Economy

## Calibration and Model Solution

- Standard three-step procedure
  - Calibrate the model to the US economy (quarterly frequency)
  - Characterize the deterministic steady state of the model
  - Model solution via second-order perturbation method

	Description	Value
Standard Macroeconomic Parameters		
$\beta$	Discount factor	0.99
$\delta$	Depreciation rate of capital	0.025
$\alpha$	Capital share	0.4
$\gamma$	Investment installation cost curvature	20
$\sigma_L$	Preference parameter (implied)	0.21
$\eta$	Preference parameter (implied)	5.72
RRA	Coefficient of relative risk aversion	2
$\bar{A}$	Total factor productivity (implied)	1.26
Financial Parameters		
$\mu$	Monitoring cost	0.21
$1 - \gamma$	Fraction of net worth to households	0.035
$\sigma$	Standard deviation of $\log \omega$	0.30
Environmental Parameters		
$\bar{M}$	Pre-industrial concentration of carbon	581
$\delta_M$	Decay rate of greenhouse gases	0.0021
$\chi$	Emission intensity parameter (implied)	0.017
$\xi$	Damage function parameter	7.86e-06
$\theta_1$	Abatement cost function parameter	1
$\theta_2$	Abatement cost function parameter	2.6

# Steady State

	Description	Value
Steady state ratios and values		
$C/Y^n$	Consumption	0.80
$I/Y^n$	Total investment	0.20
$Tr/Y^n$	Environmental tax revenues %	0.7
$H$	Hours	0.17
$Z - (1 + R)$	Spread p.p.	0.52
$F(\bar{\omega})$	Percent of bankrupt business p/quarter	1.5
$M$	Stock of concentration of carbon GtC	891
$E/(E + E^*)$	Share of US emissions	0.20

Moments

Exogenous processes

# **Price and Quantity Regulations: Economic Dynamics and Welfare Cost of Business Cycles**

---



## How the Model Economy Works (in words)

- In the case of positive shocks on TFP

## How the Model Economy Works (in words)

- In the case of positive shocks on TFP
  - first round effects: production  $\uparrow$  and the demand for polluting inputs  $\uparrow$ , the return on capital and its price  $\uparrow$ , the value of net worth of polluting firms  $\uparrow$ , investment  $\uparrow$ , the bankruptcy rate  $\downarrow$ , the interest rate spread  $\downarrow$

## How the Model Economy Works (in words)

- In the case of positive shocks on TFP
  - first round effects: production  $\uparrow$  and the demand for polluting inputs  $\uparrow$ , the return on capital and its price  $\uparrow$ , the value of net worth of polluting firms  $\uparrow$ , investment  $\uparrow$ , the bankruptcy rate  $\downarrow$ , the interest rate spread  $\downarrow$
  - second round effects: as investments  $\uparrow$  the demand for loans  $\uparrow$  and the price of capital  $\uparrow$ , so the value of net worth of polluting firms  $\uparrow$ , and so do investments... an so on

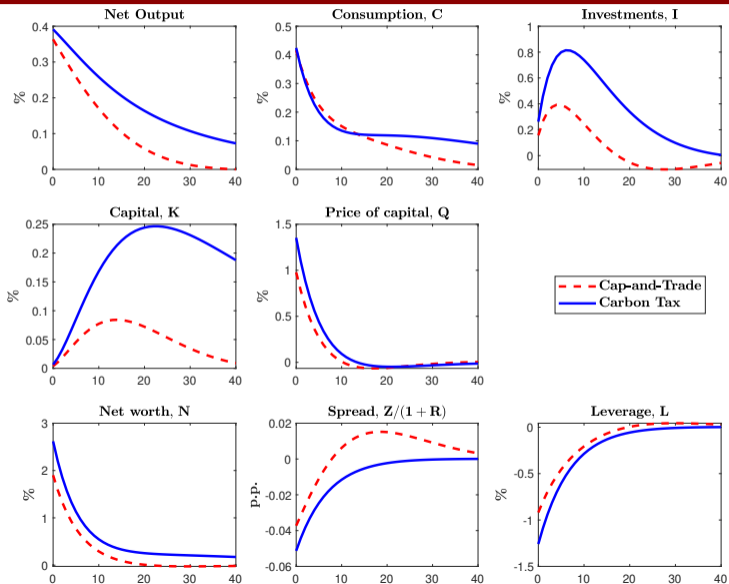
## How the Model Economy Works (in words)

- In the case of positive shocks on TFP
  - first round effects: production  $\uparrow$  and the demand for polluting inputs  $\uparrow$ , the return on capital and its price  $\uparrow$ , the value of net worth of polluting firms  $\uparrow$ , investment  $\uparrow$ , the bankruptcy rate  $\downarrow$ , the interest rate spread  $\downarrow$
  - second round effects: as investments  $\uparrow$  the demand for loans  $\uparrow$  and the price of capital  $\uparrow$ , so the value of net worth of polluting firms  $\uparrow$ , and so do investments... an so on
- This roundabout mechanism of financial acceleration amplifies the effects

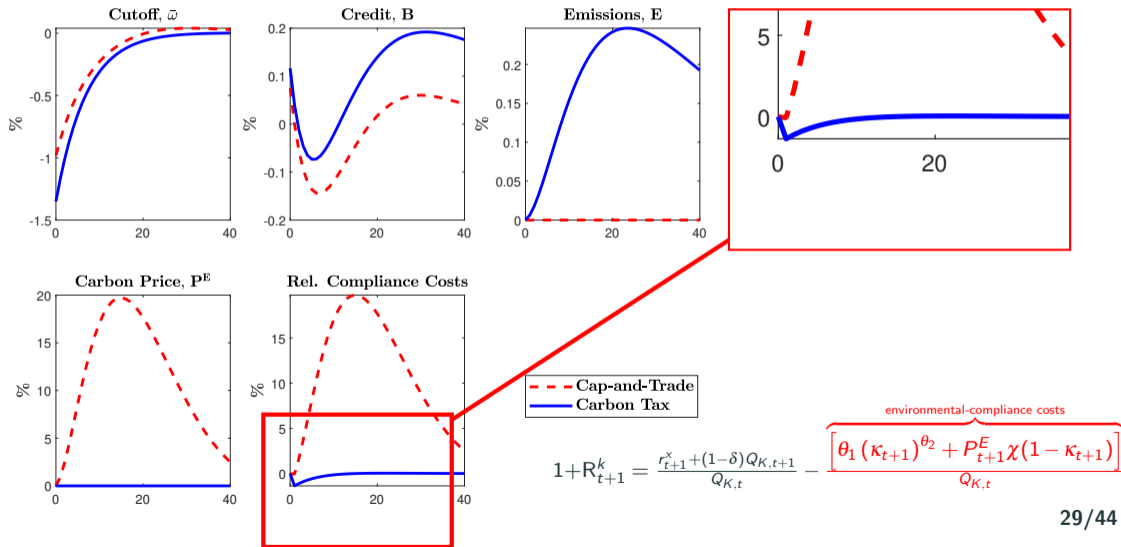
## How the Model Economy Works (in words)

- In the case of positive shocks on TFP
  - first round effects: production  $\uparrow$  and the demand for polluting inputs  $\uparrow$ , the return on capital and its price  $\uparrow$ , the value of net worth of polluting firms  $\uparrow$ , investment  $\uparrow$ , the bankruptcy rate  $\downarrow$ , the interest rate spread  $\downarrow$
  - second round effects: as investments  $\uparrow$  the demand for loans  $\uparrow$  and the price of capital  $\uparrow$ , so the value of net worth of polluting firms  $\uparrow$ , and so do investments... an so on
- This roundabout mechanism of financial acceleration amplifies the effects
- **Environmental policy interferes with this mechanism!**

# IRFs to a Positive Aggregate TFP Shock



# IRFs to a Positive Aggregate TFP Shock



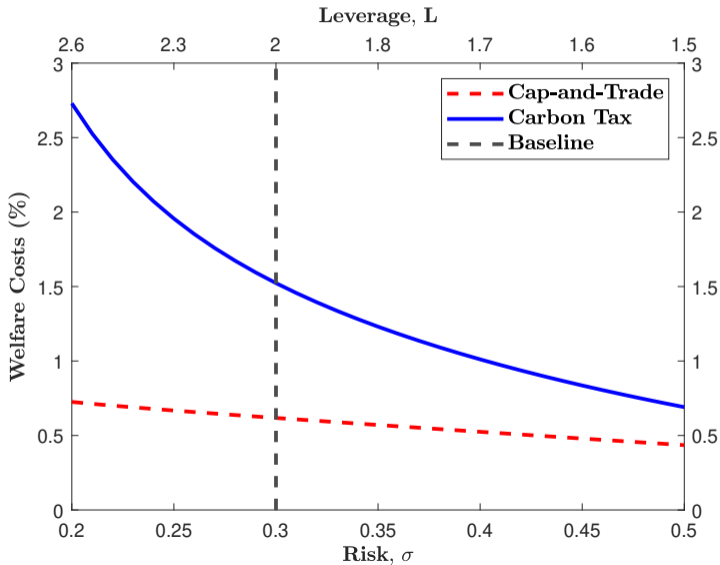
# Welfare Costs, Means and (Volatility)

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax
Net Output	-0.5691 (0.0189)	-2.0569 (0.0360)
Consumption	-0.4837 (0.0115)	-1.5935 (0.0196)
Investment	-0.9034 (0.0113)	-3.8697 (0.0236)
Net worth	3.0069 (0.7103)	0.9986 (0.8225)
Spread	0.1573 (0.0082)	0.2728 (0.0111)
Welfare costs	0.6178	1.5231

Note: Results are reported in % deviations from the steady state (spread in p.p.d.). Welfare in consumption equivalent units



# The Welfare Cost of Business Cycles, Risk and Leverage



## **What if Environmental Policies Are Hybrid?**

---

## Hybrid Environmental Policy Rules

- Existing landscape of carbon pricing is complex!



- Hybrid policies: EU ETS Market Stability Reserve; carbon tax scheduled increases paused in downturns; floors or ceiling on allowances prices

# Hybrid Environmental Policy Rules

- Two state-contingent rules:
  - Adjustable cap:

$$E_t = \bar{E} \left( \frac{Y_t^n}{Y^n} \right)^\nu$$

- Adjustable tax:

$$P_t^E = \bar{P}^E \left( \frac{Y_t^n}{Y^n} \right)^\tau$$

Variables with no subscript steady-state values  
 $\nu$  and  $\tau$  set “optimally” to reduce welfare costs

# Welfare Costs, Means and (Volatility) - Optimal Env. Policy Rules

	Optimal Cap	Optimal Tax
Net Output	-0.5325 (0.0108)	-1.5911 (0.0269)
Consumption	-0.4171 (0.0082)	-1.2266 (0.0149)
Investment	-0.9843 (0.0056)	-3.0171 (0.0176)
Net worth	1.0564 (0.6622)	0.9824 (0.7166)
Spread	0.1135 (0.0075)	0.2245 (0.0090)
Welfare costs	0.4528	1.1811

Note: Results are reported in % deviations from the steady state (spread in p.p.d.). Welfare in consumption equivalent units

# Macroprudential Regulation

---

- Static and optimal reserve requirements
- Static and optimal subsidy to depositors

# Macprudential Regulation

## Reserve Requirements

- Need for a *model-consistent* financial regulation: Reserve requirements for lending institutions
- $\Phi_t$  fraction of deposits banks can loan out
- Banks issue  $B_{t+1}^H = B_{t+1}/\Phi_t$  deposits to finance  $B_{t+1}$  loans



# Macprudential Regulation

## Reserve Requirements

- Static regulation:

$$\Phi_t = \Phi^* = 0.98$$

- Dynamic regulation:  $\Phi_t$  as a function of a financial indicator  $Fl_t$

$$\Phi_t = \Phi^* (Fl_t)^{-\psi},$$

- Two dynamic regulations:
  1. Credit growth
  2. Asset price
- $\psi$  set “optimally” to reduce welfare costs

# Macprudential Regulation

## The Welfare Cost of Business Cycles under Reserve Requirements

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax
Baseline	0.6178	1.5231
Static Regulation	0.1957 $\psi = 0$	0.3863 $\psi = 0$
Credit Growth Rule	0.1207 $\psi^B = 1.05$	0.3231 $\psi^B = 0.99$
Asset Price Rule	0.1807 $\psi^Q = 0.72$	0.2310 $\psi^Q = 0.68$

# Macprudential Regulation

## The Welfare Cost of Business Cycles under Reserve Requirements

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax	No Policy
Baseline	0.6178	1.5231	1.5522
Static Regulation	0.1957 $\psi = 0$	0.3863 $\psi = 0$	0.3910 $\psi = 0$
Credit Growth Rule	0.1207 $\psi^B = 1.05$	0.3231 $\psi^B = 0.99$	0.3259 1.00
Asset Price Rule	0.1807 $\psi^Q = 0.72$	0.2310 $\psi^Q = 0.68$	0.2339 $\psi^Q = 0.675$

# Optimal Policy Mix

## The Welfare Costs of Business Cycles

	Optimal Cap-and-Trade	Optimal Carbon Tax
Baseline $\Phi_t = 1$	0.4528 $v = -2.3380$	1.1811 $\tau = 52.2245$
$\Phi_t = \Phi^*$	0.1883 $v = -0.3695$	0.3455 $\tau = 24.2990$
$\Phi_t = \Phi^* \left( \frac{B_{t+1}}{B_t} \right)^{-\psi^B}$	0.1164 $\psi^B = 1.0482, v = -0.3011$	0.2695 $\psi^B = 1.0475, v = -44.6699$
$\Phi_t = \Phi^* \left( \frac{Q_{K,t}}{Q_{K,t-1}} \right)^{-\psi^Q}$	0.1776 $\psi^Q = 0.6890, v = -0.2391$	0.2168 $\psi^Q = 0.7000, v = 9.1723$

# Macprudential Regulation

## Interest Rate Subsidy to Depositors

- Reserve requirements problematic: lower welfare costs of business cycles around a more distorted equilibrium
- To reduce under-lending need to increase savings: a subsidy can help so that deposits are remunerated at factor  $(1 + R)(1 + s)$
- Time-varying adjustment rule

$$1 + s_t = (1 + s^*) \left( \frac{B_{t+1}}{B_t} \right)^{-\alpha}$$

- Mean welfare max at  $s^* = 1.00\%$

# Macprudential Regulation

## The Welfare Cost of Business Cycles under an Interest Rate Subsidy to Depositors

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax
Baseline	0.6178	1.5231
Static Regulation	1.1028	3.5597
	$\kappa = 0$	$\kappa = 0$
Credit Growth Rule	0.2506	0.4706
	$\kappa = 1.3190$	$\kappa = 1.3330$

Baseline

## Conclusions

---

## Conclusions

- More *volatile* economy under a carbon tax
- Financial accelerator mechanism *reversed* under a cap-and-trade
- Welfare costs of the business cycle *very* different under the two regimes: the choice of the tool is not innocuous
- Macroprudential regulation can *de facto* align the performance of climate actions
- **Policy implication: financial regulators can help reduce the uncertainty inherent to each environmental policy tool, enlarging the menu of climate policy options**



# Thank you

[francesca.diluiso@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:francesca.diluiso@bankofengland.co.uk)

# Appendix

---

## The two main ways of pricing carbon

**Cap-and-Trade:** the government sets an emissions cap and issues a quantity of emission allowances consistent with that cap. Emitters must buy allowances for each ton of GHG they emit

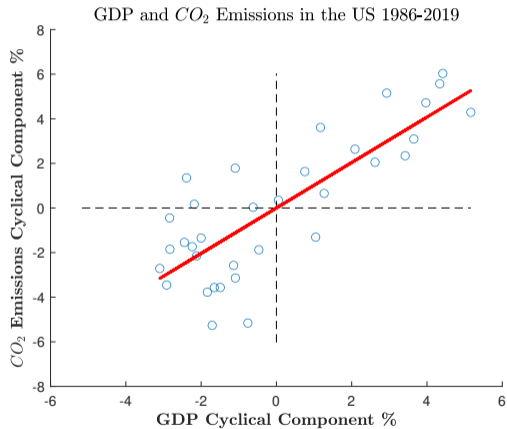
- less uncertainty about emission levels
- BUT more uncertainty about compliance costs

**Carbon Tax:** the government sets a tax for each ton of GHG

- less uncertainty about compliance costs
- BUT more uncertainty about emission levels

# Background and Motivation iv

## Emissions and the Business Cycle



# The Model Economy

## Capital-Good Producers

- In period  $t$  capital producers purchase capital from intermediate goods producers for the price  $Q_{K,t}$ , rebuild depreciated capital, and construct new capital  $K_{t+1}$  with the following technology:

$$K_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)K_t + \left(1 - S\left(\frac{I_t}{I_{t-1}}\right)\right) I_t,$$

where  $S(\bullet)$  installation costs increasing in the rate of investment growth,  $S(1) = 0$ ,  $S'(1) = 0$ ,  $S''[\cdot] > 1$

- The new capital stock is sold for the same price  $Q_{K,t}$

# The Model Economy

## Intermediate-Good Producers: The Polluters and the 'Large Family' Assumption

- Firms are owned by households, which in turn instruct polluting producers to maximize their expected net worth
- A fraction of each producer's net worth is transferred to households as a lump-sum; households transfer resources as a lump sum to each producers.
- Net worth evolves as

$$N_{t+1} = \gamma[1 - \Gamma_{t-1}(\bar{\omega}_t)](1 + R_t^k)Q_{K,t-1}K_t + W_t^P,$$

where  $W_t^P$  the amount of lump-sum transfers made by households.

# Exogenous Processes

	Description	Value
Shocks		
$\rho_{\bar{A}}$	Autocorrelation TFP shock	0.90
$\rho_{\sigma}$	Autocorrelation risk shock	0.95
$sd \ \varepsilon_{\bar{A}}$	Standard deviation TFP shock	0.0034
$sd \ \varepsilon_{\sigma}$	Standard deviation risk shock	0.065

Back

# Data and Model - Moments

	Model	Data
Standard Deviation		
$\sigma_Y$	0.010	0.010
$\sigma_I/\sigma_Y$	3.72	4.67
$\sigma_C/\sigma_Y$	0.77	0.85
Cross-Correlations		
$\rho_{I,Y}$	0.80	0.89
$\rho_{C,Y}$	0.67	0.92
First-Order Autocorrelation		
$\rho_Y$	0.79	0.90
$\rho_I$	0.94	0.88
$\rho_C$	0.67	0.86

Note: the table reports the moments generated by the model (under carbon tax) and those of the US HP-filtered quarterly data over the period 1985Q1-2019Q4, retrieved from FRED.

[Back](#)



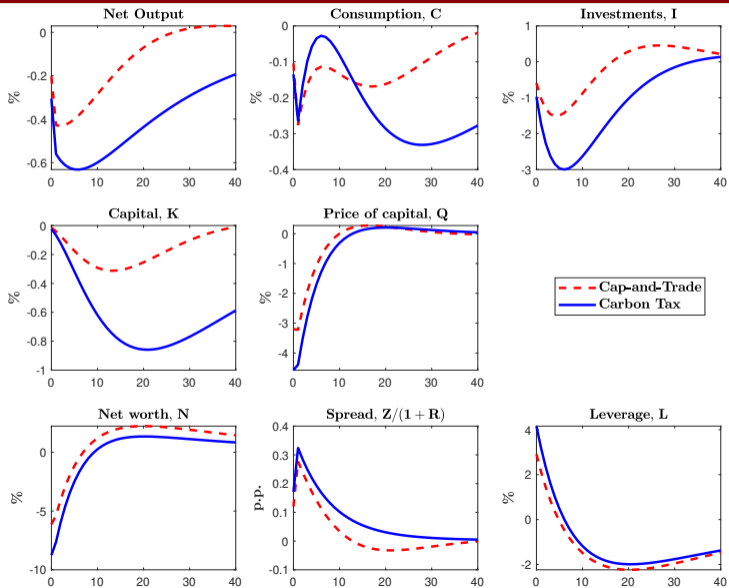
## How the Model Economy Works (in words)

- In the case of a positive risk shock

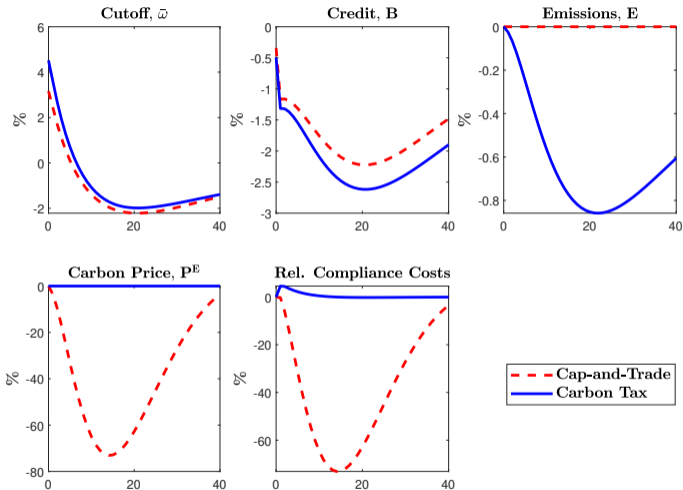
## How the Model Economy Works (in words)

- In the case of a positive risk shock
  - First-round effects: the probability of an adverse idiosyncratic shock  $\uparrow$  and so the probability that polluters are able to break even  $\downarrow$ , bankruptcy rate and monitoring costs  $\uparrow$ , interest rate spread  $\uparrow$ , return on polluting production  $\downarrow$  so investments  $\downarrow$ , polluters' production  $\downarrow$  and final output  $\downarrow$
  - Second-round effects: the higher cost of borrowing decreases the expected return on capital and so investment and the price of capital  $\downarrow$ , so net worth  $\downarrow$  etc...
- **The return on polluting production depends on environmental policy!**

# IRFs to a Risk Shock

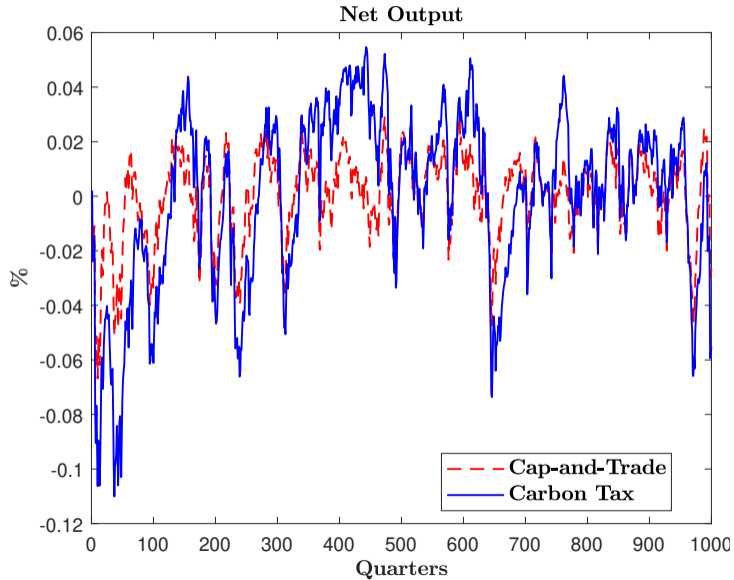


# IRFs to a Risk Shock



Results reported as % deviations from the steady state

# Simulated Series - Net Output Dynamics



## Environmental Variables Means and (Volatility)

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax
Emissions	-	-4.1252
	-	(0.0073)
Carbon Price	-60.1306	-
	(0.1781)	-
Rel. Compliance Costs	-62.5687	0.8998
	(0.0029)	(0.0001)

Note: Results are reported in % deviations from the steady state.

[Back to welfare costs](#)

## Different Measures of Welfare Costs of the Business Cycle

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax
Unconditional Expectation	0.6178	1.5231
Conditional Expectation	0.5457	1.1294
Unconditional Compensating Variation	0.4634	1.1423
Conditional Compensating Variation	0.4093	0.8470

[Back to welfare costs](#)

# Welfare Costs - Sensitivity

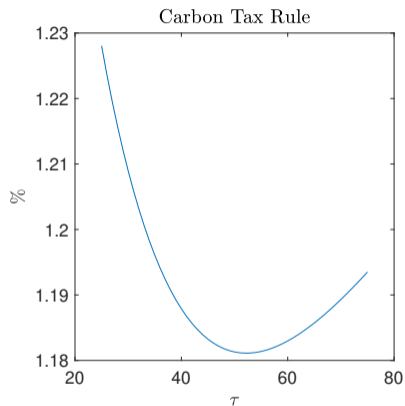
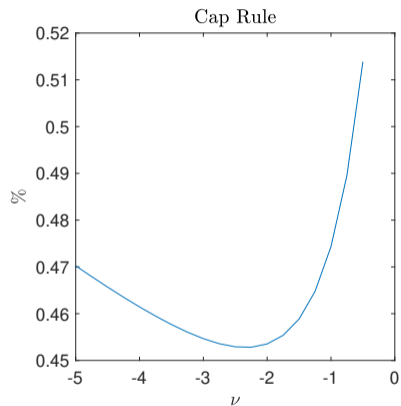
	Cap-and-trade	Carbon Tax
Baseline $\theta_2 = 2.6, \mu = 0.2, RRA = 2, \gamma_I = 20$	0.6178	1.5231
Abatement Cost		
$\theta_2 = 2$	0.2477	1.5230
$\theta_2 = 3$	0.7969	1.5233
Monitoring Cost		
$\mu = 0.01$	0.2276	0.3634
$\mu = 0.1$	0.5660	1.1905
$\mu = 0.8$	0.6529	2.0039
Relative Risk Aversion		
$RRA = 1.5$	0.6045	1.4231
$RRA = 5$	0.8618	3.1093
Curvature of investment technology		
$\gamma_I = 5$	0.5566	1.4501
$\gamma_I = 25$	0.6247	1.5647



## Welfare Costs of the Business Cycle - Source of Shocks

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax	Cost Ratio
All shocks	0.6178	1.5231	2.47
TFP	0.0297	0.0495	1.67
Risk shock	0.5885	1.4750	2.51

# Welfare Costs under Hybrid Environmental Policy Rules



- 'Lean against the wind' policies  $\rightarrow$  more uncertain compliance costs

## Environmental Variables Means and (Volatility)

	Optimal Cap-and-Trade	Optimal Carbon Tax
Emissions	1.2752 (0.0034)	-3.0437 (0.0044)
Carbon Price	-3.6366 (0.3821)	-5.3199 (0.0788)
Rel. Compliance Costs	-17.1351 (0.0062)	-10.2686 (0.0012)

Back

## Welfare Costs, Means and (Volatility) - Static Macropu

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax
Net Output	-0.2007 (0.0089)	-0.4796 (0.0147)
Consumption	-0.1672 (0.0069)	-0.3864 (0.0098)
Investment	-0.3655 (0.0044)	-0.9397 (0.0089)
Net worth	5.4258 (0.3884)	5.0493 (0.3544)
Spread	0.0437 (0.0025)	0.0670 (0.0027)
Welfare costs	0.1957	0.3863

Note: Results are reported in % deviations from the steady state (spread in p.p.d.). Welfare in consumption equivalent units

## Environmental Variables Means and (Volatility) - Static Macropu

	Cap-and-Trade	Carbon Tax
Emissions	-	-0.9951
	-	(0.0025)
Carbon Price	-19.7031	-
	(0.1078)	-
Rel. Compliance Costs	-20.6689	0.1574
	(0.0018)	(0.00003)

Back

## Steady-State under Different Macprudential Policies

	Baseline	Reserve	Subsidy
Output $Y$	1.00	0.85	1.11
Investments $I$	0.20	0.14	0.25
Leverage $L$	2.01	1.73	2.12
Bankrupt business p/quarter $F(\bar{\omega})$ %	1.50	0.32	2.11
Return spread p.p. $R^k - R$	1.51	2.49	0.99
Welfare	-62.60	-67.65	-60.08

Note: The return spread under the subsidy policy is computed as  $R^k - R - s^*$ .

Back

# Macprudential Regulation

Baseline $\Phi_t = 1$	1.5522
$\Phi_t = \Phi^*$	0.3910
$\Phi_t = \Phi^* \left( \frac{B_{t+1}}{B_t} \right)^{-\psi^B}$	0.3259 $\psi^B = 1.0000$
$\Phi_t = \Phi^* \left( \frac{Q_{K,t}}{Q_{K,t-1}} \right)^{-\psi^Q}$	0.2339 $\psi^Q = 0.6750$

## References

---

- Annicchiarico, B. and Di Dio, F. (2015). Environmental policy and macroeconomic dynamics in a New Keynesian model. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 69:1–21.
- Fischer, C. and Springborn, M. (2011). Emissions targets and the real business cycle: Intensity targets versus caps or taxes. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 62(3):352–366.
- Heutel, G. (2012). How should environmental policy respond to business cycles? Optimal policy under persistent productivity shocks. *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 15(2):244–264.
- Weitzman, M. L. (1974). Prices vs. quantities. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 41(4):477–491.
- World Bank (2023). *State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2023*.